

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/550,420	HARRISON ET AL.
	Examiner Jennifer N. To	Art Unit 2195

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Jennifer N. To.

(3) _____

(2) David Lynch.

(4) _____

Date of Interview: 07 December 2006.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.
If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 1,6,13,22,29,31,32,35 and 36.

Identification of prior art discussed: _____.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant agreed to amend the claims accordance with examiner amendment by faxing the amended claims. In addition, applicant agreed to amend the specification accordance to examiner amendment to comply with 35 U.S.C 101 requirement.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


JENNIFER N. TO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
'911 OFFICE CENTER 2100

Examiner's signature, if required



FAX

To: Jennifer
Fax: 1-571-273-7212
Pages: 15

From: David Lynch
Fax: (423) 508-1264
Phone: (423) 321-0264
Email: DLynch@cbslawfirm.com

Subject: Amendment of allowable claims: S/N 09/550,240

2:59:20 PM December 08, 2006

Comments:

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS RECEIVING ANY PORTION OF THIS FACSIMILE
PLEASE CALL 423.756.3000

Jennifer,

I have attached an amendment as we discussed. Please let me know if you need anything else.



BLD920000004US1_ibmn008-0503_amdd116_third.pdf

Best Regards,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellant:	HARRISON et al.	Examiner:	Shah, N.
Serial No.:	09/550,420	Group Art Unit:	2127
Filed:	April 17, 2000	Docket No.	BLD92000004US1 (IBMN.008US01-0503)
Title:	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRIORITIZING PRINT JOBS FROM MULTIPLE PRINTER INPUT CHANNELS		

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated April 19, 2006, and after the filing of the Appeal Brief of October 30, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks below.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

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BLD920000004US1 (IBMN.008US01)
Amdt. Dated August 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 15, 2005

In the Claims

The following is a complete listing of the claims and replace all prior claims in the application:

1. 1. (Currently Amended) A method for dictating the order that print jobs received over multiple data channels of a printer are printed, comprising:
 2. assigning priority values to data channels of a printer that receive print jobs;
 3. associating the priority value assigned to the data channel of the printer with the print jobs received by the printer at its respective data channel; and
 4. printing the print jobs by the printer in an order corresponding to their associated priority values;
5. wherein assigning the priority value comprises assigning the priority value
6. upon initialization of a printing device designated for printing the print jobs.
7. 2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning a priority value
8. comprises assigning a different priority value to each data channel that receives the print jobs.
9. 3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning a priority value
10. comprises assigning two or more of the data channels equal priority values, and wherein printing the print jobs comprises printing the print jobs received via the two or more data channels having equal priority values in an order in which they were received via the data channels.

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1 4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein printing the print jobs in
2 an order corresponding to their associated priority values comprises printing the print
3 jobs in an order from highest priority to lowest priority.

1 5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the data
2 channels is dedicated as an internal print data channel to receive internally-generated
3 print jobs.

1 6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein assigning the priority
2 value to the data channel that receives print jobs comprises assigning the internal print
3 data channel the highest possible priority.

1 7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning the priority
2 value to the data channel comprises assigning a priority value to each of the data channels
3 that receives a different predefined group of print job types.

1 8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining whether a plurality of the print jobs currently pending have
3 equivalent associated priority values; and
4 printing the print jobs that have the equivalent associated priority values in
5 an order in which they were received via their respective data channels.

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1 9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising determining the
2 order in which the print jobs having equivalent associated priority values were received
3 by monitoring time of arrival of the print jobs.

1 10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising determining the
2 order in which the print jobs having equivalent associated priority values were received
3 by queuing the print jobs having equivalent associated priority values in a first-in-first-
4 out arrangement.

1 11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising queuing the
2 print jobs in an increasing order according to their respective priority values, and
3 forwarding the print jobs to a print engine for printing in the order in which the print jobs
4 are queued.

1 12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising queuing the
2 print jobs in an order of receipt of the print jobs, and sending the print jobs to a print
3 engine for printing in a sequential order corresponding to the respective priority values
4 associated with the print jobs.

1 13. (Canceled)

1 14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning the priority
2 value comprises assigning the priority value via a user interface by a user granted
3 authority to reassign the priority values to selected ones of the data channels.

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1 15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) A printing device coupled to receive print jobs
2 transmitted by one or more computing devices, the printing device comprising:
3 a plurality of data channels at a printing device, the plurality of data
4 channels being configured for receiving print jobs, wherein each of the data channels are
5 assigned respective priority values, and wherein the print jobs received at the data
6 channels assumes the priority value of its respective one of the data channels;
7 a compare module coupled to receive the priority values corresponding the
8 received print jobs and to identify the print job exhibiting the highest priority; and
9 a print engine at a printing device, the print engine being configured for
10 printing the print jobs in an order from the highest priority to the lowest priority as
11 identified by the compare module;
12 wherein the assignment of the priority value comprises assigning the
13 priority value upon initialization of a printing device designated for printing the print
14 jobs.

1 17. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 16, further comprising one
2 or more print queues coupled to receive and output the print jobs in an order received,
3 wherein the print jobs are received in the order of the highest priority to the lowest
4 priority.

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1 18. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 16, further comprising one
2 or more print queues coupled to receive the print jobs in an order received, and to output
3 the print jobs in an order corresponding to their respective priority values.

1 19. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 16, further comprising a
2 job monitor module coupled to the plurality of data channels to receive and store the
3 priority values associated with the print jobs that are currently pending.

1 20. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 19, wherein the compare
2 module is coupled to the job monitor module to receive the stored priority values, and to
3 identify the print job exhibiting the highest priority in response thereto.

1 21. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 16, wherein the plurality of
2 data channels comprise an internal print data channel in which internally-generated print
3 jobs are received.

1 22. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 21, wherein the internal
2 print data channel is preassigned to the highest priority in a range of the priority values.

1 23. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 22, further comprising a
2 user interface coupled to the internal print data channel to allow a user to select print
3 features to initiate the internally-generated print jobs.

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1 24. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 23, further comprising an
2 internal print module to generate the internally-generated print jobs corresponding to the
3 selected print features.

1 25. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 16, wherein the priority of
2 the print job is inversely proportional to the priority value associated with the print job.

1 26-28. (Canceled)

1 29. (Currently Amended) A method of dictating the order in which print jobs
2 are printed on a printing device, comprising:
3 providing a plurality of data channels at a printing device to receive print
4 jobs, wherein the data channels receive predefined groups of print job types;
5 assigning a priority value to the data channels of the printing device that
6 receive print jobs by assigning the priority value upon initialization of a printing device
7 designated for printing the print jobs;
8 associating the priority value of the data channels of the printing device
9 with the print jobs received at the respective one of the data channels;
10 determining relative priorities of the print jobs based on their associated
11 priority values;
12 printing the print jobs at the printing device in a sequence corresponding
13 to the relative priorities associated with the print jobs.

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1 30. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein printing the print jobs in
2 a sequence comprises printing the print jobs in a sequence of highest priority to lowest
3 priority.

1 31. (Original) The method of Claim 29, further comprising:
2 designating one of the data channels as an internal print data channel 3 to
3 receive internally-generated print jobs; and
4 pre-assigning a priority value to the internal print data channel that
5 represents the highest possible priority value of a priority value range of priority values.

1 32. (Canceled)

1 33. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein assigning the priority
2 values to the data channels comprises assigning the priority values via a user interface to
3 apply user-selected priorities to particular ones of the data channels.

1 34. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein determining relative
2 priorities of the print jobs comprises comparing the priority values of the print jobs that
3 are currently pending to each other.

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- 1 35. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable program storage medium
- 2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a print server system to
- 3 process print jobs by performing steps comprising:
 - 4 assigning priority values to a plurality of data channels of a printer that
 - 5 receive print jobs by assigning the priority value upon initialization of a printing device
 - 6 designated for printing the print jobs;
 - 7 associating the priority value assigned to each data channel of the printer
 - 8 with print jobs received by the printer at its respective data channel;
 - 9 determining relative priorities of a plurality of print jobs based on their
 - 10 associated priority values; and
 - 11 printing print jobs by the printer in a sequence corresponding to the
 - 12 relative priorities associated with the print jobs.

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1 36. (Currently Amended) A printing device coupled to receive print jobs
2 transmitted by one or more computing devices, the printing device comprising:
3 a plurality of data channels at the printing device for receiving the print
4 jobs;
5 means for assigning a priority value to the data channels of the printing
6 device upon initialization of a printing device designated for printing the print jobs;
7 means for attributing the priority value of the data channels of the printing
8 device to the print jobs received via its respective one of the data channels;
9 means for comparing the priority values of the print jobs that are pending,
10 and for identifying the print job exhibiting the highest priority; and
11 means for printing the print jobs by the printing device in an order from
12 the highest priority to the lowest priority.

1 37. (Original) The printing device as in Claim 36, further comprising means
2 for queuing the print jobs in the order from the highest priority to the lowest priority.

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- 1 38. (New) A method for dictating the order that print jobs received over
- 2 multiple data channels of a printer are printed, comprising:
- 3 assigning priority values to data channels of a printer that receive print
- 4 jobs;
- 5 associating the priority value assigned to the data channel of the printer
- 6 with the print jobs received by the printer at its respective data channel; and
- 7 printing the print jobs by the printer in an order corresponding to their
- 8 associated priority values;
- 9 wherein at least one of the data channels is dedicated as an internal print
- 10 data channel to receive internally-generated print jobs and wherein assigning the priority
- 11 value to the data channel that receives print jobs comprises assigning the internal print
- 12 data channel the highest possible priority.

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- 1 39. (New) A method of dictating the order in which print jobs are printed on a
- 2 printing device, comprising:
 - 3 providing a plurality of data channels at a printing device to receive print
 - 4 jobs, wherein the data channels receive predefined groups of print job types;
 - 5 dedicating at least one of the data channels as an internal print data
 - 6 channel to receive internally-generated print jobs;
 - 7 assigning a priority value to the data channels of the printing device that
 - 8 receive print jobs;
 - 9 assigning the internal print data channel the highest possible priority;
 - 10 associating the priority value of the data channels of the printing device
 - 11 with the print jobs received at the respective one of the data channels;
 - 12 determining relative priorities of the print jobs based on their associated
 - 13 priority values;
 - 14 printing the print jobs at the printing device in a sequence corresponding
 - 15 to the relative priorities associated with the print jobs.

Appl. No. 09/550,420
BLD92000004US1 (IBMN.008US01-0503)
Amdt. Dated June 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2006

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated April 19, 2006, and after the filing of the Appeal Brief of October 30, 2006, Applicants respectfullyreconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments herein.

In response to an interview between Applicants' attorney, David W. Lynch, and the Examiner, the claims have been amended. During the interview the Examiner indicated that claims 6 and 13 were allowable. Accoridngly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 16, 29, 35 and 36 to include the language of claim 13. Claim 13 and 32 have been canceled.

Applicants have also canceled claims 15 and 26-28. New claims 38 and 39 have been added. New claims 38 and 39 correspond to the combination of claims 1, 5 and 6, and claims 29, 5 and 6.

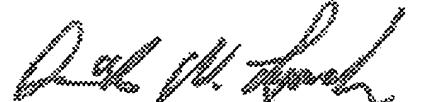
On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicants, David W. Lynch, at 651-686-6633 Ext. 116.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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